Safety

Oversee and operate the safest aerospace system in the world, all with a culture of continuous improvement

Expand Safety Culture

Expand the Safety Culture Campaign across FAA and industry that integrates all aspects of Safety Culture (i.e., Just Culture, Reporting Culture, Learning Culture, Flexible Culture, and Informed Culture) to improve safety performance throughout the NAS.

Initiative: Commercial Space Transportation Systemic Safety Approach

Ensure that safety oversight keeps pace with changes in the commercial space transportation environment.

Activity: Launch and Reentry Safety

AST will verify that the risks to public safety and the safety of property comply with FAA regulations during AST authorized activities

Target: Licensed and Permitted Launch and Reentry Safety

No fatalities, serious injuries, or significant property damage to the uninvolved public during licensed or permitted space launch and reentry activities.

Initiative: Enhance Commercial Space Transportation Safety Culture

Develop and execute activities to increase the safety culture within the Office of Commercial Space Transportation and the Commercial Space Transportation Industry.

Activity: Commercial Space Transportation Safety Management System (SMS)

Promote a culture of safety and safety reporting within the Commercial Space Transportation enterprise

Target: Update the SMS for the Office of Commercial Space Transportation

Publish an updated AST SMS and deliver training for AST personnel in public risk management and safety analyses.

Target: Document Requirements for a Voluntary Reporting Safety System for Commercial Space Transportation Industry.

Working with COMSTAC and other stakeholders, develop a proposal for a Voluntary Reporting Safety System for industry.

Optimize Information to Reduce Risk

Transform the agency's approach to assessing and managing system safety performance through enhanced access to data and analytics, inform risk-based decision making, improve existing safety metrics, and increase system safety awareness.

Initiative: Cross LOB Safety Issues for SMS

Submit as required, safety issues involving AST and additional lines of Business for consideration in the FAA Safety Issue Identification and Management Process

Activity: Potential/Emerging safety Issues

Submit potential/emerging safety issues involving both AST and one or more additional FAA Lines of Business (if any) to the SMS Committee for consideration in the FAA Safety Issue Identification and Management Process.

Target: Submit potential/emerging safety issues

Submit potential/emerging safety issues involving both AST and one or more additional FAA Lines of Business (if any) to the SMS Committee for consideration in the FAA Safety Issue Identification and Management Process.

Initiative: Potential/Emerging Safety Concerns

Improve the ability to identify and assess safety risks through advanced analytics.

Activity: LOx/Methane Studies

Provide industry with resources necessary to conduct the research to determine the effects of LOx/Methane gas on the environment.

Target: LOx/Methane Studies Contract

Advance LOx/Methane Studies toward contract award

Target: LOx/Methane results

Execute and provide preliminary results from LOx/Methane Study

Initiative: Developing effective Interagency/Interorganizational collaborations

Develop inter-agency and organization collaborative efforts to advance commercial Space Transportation safety and effectiveness.

Activity: Developing effective Interagency/Interorganizational collaborations

Develop inter-agency and organization collaborative efforts to advance commercial Space Transportation safety and effectiveness.

Target: FOSTERING USG CONSENSUS STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Direct the coordination between the FAA, NASA, and USAF to establish and maintain common public safety requirements and compliance evaluation standards for space transportation at Federal and non-Federal launch sites in a timely and efficient manner without altering or otherwise modifying the roles and responsibilities delineated by statute or national policy. Coordinate an annual review of waivers to common safety standards issued by any of the three agencies. Identify specific reoccurring waivers which could indicate inadequate or improperly defined public safety requirements.

Initiative: Enhance Space Transportation Mission Efficiency and Support

Develop and execute activities to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Office of Commercial Space Transportation and support to the safety mission.

Activity: Commercial Space Transportation Learning and Development Program

Enable the AST Learning Culture by providing the framework, tools, and support required for AST personnel to excel in safety performance and support.

Target: Fully Documented Job Training Requirements

Support AST Divisions in documenting technical job skills and competencies with learning objectives and materials organized on the LMS and external courses programmed or projected for development.

Target: Build Alliances with Shared Content Developers

Develop a MOA with NASA and the U.S. Space Force to collaborate on development and attendance of courses where content is shared.

Target: Coordinate Developmental Assignments

Coordinate with related government agencies and industry for short-term developmental assignments.

Target: Re-energize the AST Cognitive Engineer Program

Maintain a directory of AST subject matter experts where individuals are identified as having specialized expertise, supported in further development in those areas, and to identify areas where there are gaps in redundancy of expertise.

Target: Conduct Evaluation of AST Learning and Development Program

Conduct a results-based follow-up evaluation of the L&D Program for continuous improvement.

Activity: NARA compliant records management program

Create a NARA compliant records management program (to include new file structure.) Begin to implement the plan (Q1 2022). Complete Plan (Q4 2022).

Target: NARA compliant records management program

Create a NARA compliant records management program (to include new file structure). Begin to implement the plan (Q1 2022). Complete Plan (Q4 2022).

Activity: Engage industry and assess safety culture

Engage with industry to ensure that safety remains top priority

Target: Safety culture assessment

Develop a safety culture assessment and conduct an industry safety culture engagement event.

Initiative: Potential/Emerging Safety Issues

Improve the ability to identify and assess safety risks through advanced analytics.

Activity: Potential/Emerging Safety Issues

Improve the ability to identify and assess safety risks through advanced analytics.

Target: Potential/Emerging Safety Issues (AST)

Screen potential/emerging safety issues through the FAA Safety Issue Identification and Management Process and submit an annual FAA safety issue screening report to the FAA SMS Executive Council by September 30, 2022.

Initiative: Develop and Issue Rules and Supporting Regulatory Documents

Develop and issue products to assist potential licensees and permittees in meeting regulatory requirements.

Activity: Manage the Commercial Space Rulemaking Program, Develop Rules, and Supporting Guidance Documents

Provide information to industry and publish supporting material as required to support Part 450 Streamlining Commercial Space Launch and Reentry

Target: Develop and issue products intended to assist potential licensees in meeting regulatory requirements pertaining to public safety.

Develop draft advisory documents on topic required for the final rule to provide guidance and a means of compliance with the current regulations.

Target: Develop and implement pre-rulemaking activities to gather public and industry input

Prepare and coordinate Aerospace Rulemaking Committee charters for projected rulemaking activities.

Target: Advisory Circulars

Publish 8 Advisory Circulars

Target: Part 440 Aerospace Rulemaking Committee

Establish the Part 440 Aerospace Rulemaking Committee and conduct 1st meeting

Activity: Perform Process Improvement Activities to Reduce Regulatory Burden While Maintaining Safety

Evaluate current licensing and evaluation procedures to identify and implement process and efficiency improvements. Maintain public safety through process improvements and the conduct of effective and efficient safety evaluations and inspections. Complete 65% of the initiatives within this target.

Target: Analyze Commercial Space Transportation License Application Processes

Analyze Commercial Space Transportation license evaluation processes to identify opportunities for efficiency improvement.

Target: Continuously Integrate Lessons Learned

Coordinate and implement lessons learned with stakeholders following each license or permit determination. Identify lessons learned and other safety issues observed during inspection and mishap response or those which do not support operational environments and indicate potentially inadequate safety and mishap requirements and processes necessitating modification. Develop and provide regulatory recommendations and/or draft language which improve public safety requirements. Document and coordinate results with the AST management team. Incorporate necessary changes into pre-application, evaluation, and inspection procedures, training, and planning.

Target: Commercial space transportation waiver analysis and integration

Develop and implement a waiver tracking system. Ensure the rationale for a waiver accounts for other applicable waivers. Identify specific reoccurring waivers which could indicate inadequate or improperly defined public safety requirements.

Initiative: Conduct Safety Inspections

Verify operator compliance with public safety requirements during the conduct of launch/reentry, launch/reentry site operator, and safety approval operations to the extent necessary using a risk informed monitoring approach. Execute the AST standardization and evaluation and inspection training programs to ensure a logically consistent approach to verification techniques. Execute mishap response coordination and enforcement programs to return operators to safe operation and compliance.

Activity: Inspect Launch and Reentry Operations and Sites

Conduct launch/reentry, launch/reentry site operator, and safety approval safety inspections using a risk-based methodology.

Target: Monitor FAA Authorized Operators/Operations

Conduct monitoring activity for FAA authorized operators/operations to the extent necessary to ensure public safety and verify operator compliance in accordance with an established concept of operations (CONOPS) which adequately manages inspection resources while focusing on critical safety processes and activities in order to achieve acceptable risks to the public. Record, document, and evaluate compliance monitoring results to effectively monitor future activities.

Target: Continue to enhance inspector training and certification process

Review the current safety inspector qualification matrix (QM) qualification and certification process. Continue to improve the delivery of training for qualification and certification of new safety inspectors based on the basic knowledge, skills, and experience required to independently and adequately monitor and support Commercial Space Transportation safety inspection division activities. Identify and document proficiency training requirements and guidelines for qualified/certified personnel in order to maintain certification. Review and identify improvements to the current qualification and certification record keeping process. Identify information technology requirements and potential applicable tools including building a library of recorded training to minimize the need for inspectors to conduct individual training in-person each time.

Activity: Maintain a Mishap Response Program

Develop, implement, and modify critical mishap response procedures, tools and exercises to familiarize and train division staff response to commercial space transportation mishap events. Share lessons learned with AST and other stakeholders. Support and oversee mishap activities associated with AST regulated operations.

Target: Commercial Space Transportation Mishap Response Exercise

Conduct a mishap notification and response team mishap exercise and include key stakeholders as required. Exercise AST bridge line activation and response actions which simulate an actual mishap event. Develop and implement a catastrophic mishap scenario for use during the exercise. Share results, lessons learned and other outcomes with the AST management team. Identify areas of weakness and strengths and provide recommended procedural or policy changes to improve AST mishap response.

Activity: Maintain a Compliance and Enforcement Program

Identify operator compliance issues, process noncompliance in accordance with Agency policy and directives, and prepare/train/familiarize personnel to understand the FAA compliance program and process enforcement actions. Develop, implement, and modify compliance and enforcement program procedures, tools, and exercises.

Target: Maintain Compliance and Enforcement Program Policies and Procedures

Familiarize AST staff with the Compliance & Enforcement program. Provide training Module 1, AST oversight of Compliance and Enforcement Program, for all AST personnel. Provide in depth training Module 2, Inspector training on Compliance and Enforcement, to all safety inspectors using a tabletop exercise (TTE).

People

Strengthen our current and future aviation workforce by holding ourselves accountable, developing our people and planning for the aviation workforce of the future

Maximize the Benefits of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to ensure a more thoughtful, robust workforce environment that embraces the diverse talents of employees, ensures fair and equitable treatment, and advances broader gains in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

Initiative: EEO/Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee (EAC)

Utilize the EEO Action Committee (EAC) to collaborate and support a diverse and inclusive workplace with existing employee workgroups and LOBs/SOs to create an inclusive work environment.

Activity: Ensure a Diverse and Inclusive Workforce - Reasonable Accommodations

ACR will lead collaboration with LOBs/SOs to foster an inclusive work environment throughout FAA that promotes opportunities for all, including traditionally underrepresented groups such as Hispanics, Women, and People with Disabilities (PWD) / People with Targeted Disabilities (PWTD) by improving the Reasonable Accommodation interactive process.

Target: AST - Reasonable Accommodations

Ensure that at least 90% of reasonable accommodation requests are processed within 25 business days or less.

Activity: Ensure a Diverse and Inclusive Workforce - Mediation

Managers engage in the mediation/facilitation process when requested.

Target: AST - Mediation

Ensure that 75% of managers engage in mediation when requested by employees.

Initiative: Train Managers and Employees across the Agency in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)

ACR will lead collaboration with LOBs/SOs to train managers and employees in DEIA.

Activity: ACR will Lead Collaboration with LOBs/SOs to Train Managers and Employees in DEIA

Ensure at least 75% of managers and 25% of employees from each LOB/SO attend a minimum of one training course from a menu of DEIA training courses such as Harmony & Respect, Reasonable Accommodations, Preventing Bullying, Equity, Hiring People with Disabilities (PWD) / Targeted Disabilities (PWTD), and Transgender.

Target: AST - Train Managers and Non-Managerial Employees in a Minimum of One DEIA Training Course

Ensure at least 75% of managers and 25% of employees attend a minimum of one training course from a menu of DEIA training courses such as Harmony & Respect, Reasonable Accommodations, Preventing Bullying, Equity, Hiring People with Disabilities (PWD) / Targeted Disabilities (PWTD), and Transgender.

Transform Agency to Meet Evolving Workforce

Transform agency workforce policies to proactively and collectively address/manage the realities and expectations of the future. Create flexible workspace and tools that reflect diverse workstyles/organizational needs to best serve the agency and workforce.

Initiative: Government Partnerships

Continue to develop partnerships with NASA programs and centers, and other inter-agency partners ies to manage policy, coordination, and consistency of requirements for the enhancement of commercial space safety.

Activity: Government Partnerships

Continue to develop partnerships with NASA programs and centers, and other inter-agency partners to manage policy, coordination, and consistency of requirements for the enhancement of commercial space safety.

Target: NASA Partnerships

Perform annual review of AST developed framework outlining the FAA roles and responsibilities, including a concept of operations for FAA participation during NASA commercial crew program certification flights (shadow mode).

Target: DoD Partnerships

Preform annual review of AST Memorandums of Agreement or Understanding with DoD, USAF, USSF, and other agreements for continued applicability and usability, terminating unnecessary agreements and re-establishing those still necessary.

Develop an FAA Employee Lifecycle Management Approach

Develop an FAA Employee Lifecycle Management Approach that promotes career opportunities, growth, and wellness through restructured recruitment and hiring; and continuous employee investment, development, and training towards the health of the agency.

Initiative: Align AST's hiring and workforce development to its future needs.

AST's workforce is equipped with the skills to confidently perform their duties and step up to leadership positions while utilizing the diversity of the organization.

Activity: Expand development programs

In order to ensure AST is ready for future challenges, learning and development programs need to be expanded.

Target: Employee experimental opportunity program

Develop a program for experiential opportunities for employees (E.g.: visits to launch sites, viewing of launch vehicles, etc.)

Target: Invitational and Educational speaker program

Develop an AST-wide invitational/educational speaker program

Target: Manager professional development plan

Create a professional development plan for each manager

Target: Manager professional development opportunity

Ensure all managers participate in one instructor-led and one self-paced professional development opportunity a year

Target: Non-manager professional development plan

Create a professional development plan for each non-manager employee

Initiative: Small Business Opportunities

Support small businesses and job creation by providing opportunities for small businesses to attain FAA contracts and purchase orders, with special emphasis on procurement opportunities for socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses (including 8(a) certified firms), service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, and women-owned small businesses.

Activity: Contracting with Small Businesses

Utilize market analysis and acquisition strategies to provide opportunities for small businesses to compete for, and attain FAA contracts and purchase orders, with special emphasis on procurement opportunities for socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses (including 8(a) certified firms), service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, and women-owned small businesses.

Target: AST - Support ACQ's Small Business efforts

Support ACQ's efforts to ensure 25% of the Agency's total direct procurement dollars are awarded to small businesses.

Activity: Contracting with Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB)

Utilize market analysis and acquisition strategies to provide opportunities for Small Disadvantaged Businesses (SDB) to compete for and attain FAA contracts and purchase orders.

Target: AST - Support ACQ's Small Disadvantaged Business efforts

Ensure at least 12% of the Agency's total direct procurement dollars are awarded to Small Disadvantaged Businesses (SDB).

Global Leadership

Advance global aviation safety, operational excellence and innovation by leading and collaborating with aviation authorities globally

Global Aviation Safety and Security Enhancements

Improve global aviation safety and security through targeted assistance and collaboration, partnerships on aviation system safety oversight, streamlining regulatory environments, and promoting higher levels of global airspace and cyber security.

Initiative: Advocate for US Spaceport Regulatory Framework

Advocate for US launches and reentries and public safety by encouraging international adoption of US commercial space regulations. Lead Org AST; Support Org API. Due Date September 30, 2022.

Activity: Advocate Internationally for US Commercial Space Regualtions

Commercial Space Transportation Regulations: Advocate for US launches and reentries overseas through the promotion of US commercial space transportation regulations and build relationships between governments to streamline licensing processes and protect public safety. Lead Org AST; Support Orgs API, AGC.

Target: Encouraging regulatory cooperation between governments

Conduct technical interchanges meetings or regulatory workshops with at least 5 countries, prioritizing countries that have a US company interested in launching, to develop an understanding of commercial space transport regulations abroad and facilitate the promulgation of US commercial space transport regulations in order to enhance public safety.

Target: International roles and responsibilities coordination for US launch and reentry providers

Complete a draft for legal review with the initial roles and responsibilities for each party for a Bilateral Commercial Space Agreements with Brazil and the United Kingdom to minimize duplication for international launches.

Operational Excellence

Operate the world's most efficient aerospace system through daily execution, continuous improvement and infrastructure investment.

Optimize Mission Efficiency and Support

Optimize efficiency and support mission requirements through daily execution, continuous improvement, planning, and investment. Effectively plan for and manage finances, procurement, information technology, and other mission support services.

Initiative: Productivity and Financial Metrics

Each FAA organization will develop, track, and report quarterly on a comprehensive measure of its operating efficiency or financial performance. These measures will include ATO cost per operation, overhead rates, and cost per accounting transaction.

Activity: Corporate Leadership for Efficiency Activities

As the agency lead for all cost control/efficiency efforts, ABA will provide leadership and guidance in the development of efficiency and financial metrics that can be used to track the efficiency and financial performance of each organization within the agency.

Target: AST Efficiency Measure: Average Days to Make License Determinations-Annual Check/Update

Provide or check updated FY 2022 measure template with changes as needed.

Target: AST Efficiency Measure: Regulatory Cost per Launch/ Re-entry- Annual Check/Update

Provide or check updated FY 2022 measure template with changes as needed.

Activity: FY 2022 Quarterly Data Consolidated and Reporting

Review and validate proposed efficiency measures, making a determination as to the suitability for the Productivity and Financial Metrics program within 45 business days of receipt by ABA.

Target: AST Efficiency Measure: Average Days to Make License Determinations-Quarterly Submission

Report quarterly results and comments to ABA on the average number of days to make license determinations. Due 30 days after the end of each quarter.

Target: AST Efficiency Measure: Regulatory Cost per Launch/ Re-entry- Quarterly Submission

Report quarterly results and comments to ABA for average regulatory cost of a commercial space launch. Due 30 days after the end of each quarter.

Initiative: Improve operational efficiency by streamlining processes.

Increase AST's operational efficiency and prepare for continued growth in AST's regulatory workload by streamlining and automating AST's regulatory and business processes.

Activity: AST Application & tool development

Enhance AST's applications and tools to increase operation efficiency.

Target: Application Portal (LEAP)

"Develop final requirements for LEAP application portal
a.Assess COTS solutions to meet our high and medium priority requirements (ASZ)
b.Conduct beta test with one of the part 450 license applications under review (ASZ)
c.Conduct Industry focus groups with multiple types of applicants and operators(ASZ)
d.Revise requirements and plans based on November COMSTAC recommendations (ASA/ASZ)"

Target: AST tool development

Develop templates for AST tool development

Initiative: Productivity and Financial Measurements

Each FAA organization will develop, track, and report quarterly on a comprehensive measure of its operating efficiency or financial performance. These measures will include ATO cost per operation, overhead rates, and cost per accounting transaction.

Activity: Staffing Strategy and Resource

Acquire and organize human resources to effectively utilize the organization's personnel

Target: Meet authorized staffing level

Meet authorized staffing level (PBR: 126) with focus on DE&I/building bench strength

Target: Create Staffing Strategy

Create and begin implementation of staffing strategy (including: requirements, position priorities, attrition forecasting, affordability, and contractor mix)

Target: Implement New Organizational Structure

Fully execute and implement new organizational (sub-directorate) structure

Initiative: Government Partnerships

Continue to develop partnerships with NASA programs and centers, and other agencies to manage policy, coordination, and consistency of requirements for the enhancement of commercial space safety.

Activity: Government Partnerships

Continue to develop partnerships with NASA programs and centers, and other agencies to manage policy, coordination, and consistency of requirements for the enhancement of commercial space safety.

Target: Approval process for items involving AGC

Create and obtain approval of a process for items that require AGC coordination/approval

Initiative: Develop Commercial Space Transportation Strategic Plan

Develop Strategic Plan for the Office of Commercial Space Transportation consistent with Department of Transportation and FAA Goals, Objectives, and Guidance

Activity: Commercial Space Transportation Strategic Plan

Develop Strategic Plan for the Office of Commercial Space Transportation

Target: Develop Strategic Plan for the Office of Commercial Space Transportation

Develop and coordinate a Strategic Plan for the Office of Commercial Space Transportation which incorporates the Goals, Objectives, and guidance of the Department of Transportation and FAA to include planning criteria for programs, resources, and manpower necessary to execute the AST strategic program.

Target: Implement a comprehensive metrics program incorporating the Department, FAA, and AST Strategic Plans and the FAA and AST Business Plans

Develop and implement a Metrics Development program to capture critical tasks based on the Department, FAA, and AST strategic plans and supporting the FAA and AST Performance planning requirements

Target: Develop a Draft of a Requirements-based programming process for AST

Develop a draft requirements-based programming process to incorporate required capabilities derived from the AST Strategic Plan, a Requirements Documentation process and document format, and integration into a budget requirements submission

Target: Develop and coordinate an AST Roles and Responsibilities Document

Develop and coordinate a Roles and Responsibilities to codify mission assignments resulting from the AST Reorganization

Improve Sustainability, Mitigate Noise, and Reduce Emissions

Lead aviation sector efforts to improve sustainability, mitigate the effects of aviation noise, and reduce emissions.

Initiative: Commercial Space Transportation Environmental Stewardship

Perform a comprehensive environmental review for each licensed or permitted activity for which an application is accepted and document the results appropriately, for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Agency Directives.

Activity: Commercial Space Transportation Environmental Reviews

Conduct environmental reviews for proposed launch, reentry and launch site operations in support of AST license, permit, and renewal evaluation timelines.

Target: Improve Commercial Space Transportation Environmental Efficiency

Update environmental review process guidance for applicants based on lessons learned, coordinate with AEE, and incorporate updates into AST's pre-application consultation process